

# DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Library

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1966

WITH THE ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
AND THE ENGINEER & SURVEYOR ATTACHED.

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COUNCIL OFFICES,  
PULHAM MARKET,  
DISS NORFOLK.

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DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1966

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Report on the state of the public health in this District for the year ended 31st December 1966.

INTRODUCTION

The extent to which climatic factors have an effect on the public health of a locality is undefined. Certainly those suffering from various rheumatic and respiratory disorders are commonly of the opinion that their health is closely related to the weather. In the wider view it may even be held that the psychological effect of, say, a fine summer may be of importance in the prevention and treatment of the stress illnesses which are increasingly common in the modern world. Be this as it may it is felt that an annual report on the state of the public health should contain a short record of the year's weather. Of 1966 this must be generally gloomy. Total rainfall was little over average but this was not the impression left by continuing damp and cloudy overcast. Total sunshine was, in fact, some 250 hours less than average. The second half of winter was not unduly severe although January was cold and there was some heavy snow. An unusually cold spell in mid April gave way to a good May in which sunshine and temperature were up to average. June, July and August were dull and wet but late holidaymakers enjoyed a dry and warm September. In October the gloom returned and cloud and light rain characterised the remainder of the year.

The writing of the annual report necessarily enforces a pause for reflection on past progress - or lack of it - and must also encourage a forward look into the future. This is of special interest at the present time because public health practice is in a period either of run-down or of change and it is not yet clear which will be the case. The point has been made in previous reports (but it is of such fundamental importance that it must continue to be made until the new course has been set) that the old public health concept of safeguarding the people from a hostile environment is now largely outdated. The people's health is already less threatened by the environment than by the unwisdom of the modern way of life and in each successive year the changing emphasis becomes more apparent. If it is considered that the public health service has mandate only to influence the environment and not to influence the people then, indeed, its work is on the decline but if the broader view is taken then the problems awaiting solution are at least as great as any faced in the whole history of public health work in this country. Probably the greatest of the problems is that of coronary artery disease and the 1965 figure of 113,000 deaths in England and Wales from this cause was the highest ever. The number for 1966 is not yet available but there is no reason to suppose that it will indicate that the message of healthy living is beginning to be heard. The 'happy savage' does not suffer from coronary disease but it would be unrealistic to expect western society to live his life in order to avoid this modern scourge. Perhaps it will be held that the disease is part of the price of civilization and that it must be accepted with resignation, at least until someone in a laboratory makes a discovery, but it is to be hoped that the public will before then come to accept the idea of modifying its mode of life in the interests of good health. This seems a pipe dream but there is hope in the ease with which the 'ex-coronary' patient so often succeeds in reducing weight, in giving up smoking, in making time for suitable exercise and, above all, in learning to relax. Unfortunately this transformation in attitude requires an initial heart attack (because it is human to think that such things always happen to other people) and about a quarter of those attacked are given no opportunity of reform. Recent thought has been given to identifying healthy individuals who are in special danger of coronary artery disease by clinical and biochemical means. If such persons were



induced to modify their way of life to no greater extent than to reduce weight and give up smoking, it is probable that a considerable reduction in the disease would result, particularly among the middle aged where its social effects are most profound. Perhaps progress will be made in this limited field of persuading people at special risk but whether limited or directed at the whole population, any such effort is health education and this, despite its unfortunate public image and its school-roomish title, is therefore the key (and perhaps the only key) to continuing improvement in the nation's health. The Health Education Sub-Committee of this Council continued, by its existence, to 'show the flag' but it is not likely that its message had very much influence. It is this failure to see immediate results that makes health education effort at the local level so unrewarding but it may nevertheless prove vital to success in the long term because campaigns mounted at a more remote level and using all the powerful and expensive propaganda weapons of the mass media have been shown to have only a temporary effect. Perhaps the only effective arrangement will turn out to be 'grass root' activity by the public health authorities acting in co-ordination through and with the support of the County. Thus ideas would interchange, problems would be resolved, enthusiasm would be stimulated and, where necessary, funds would be available for projects beyond the financial scope of the district.

The question perhaps most frequently put to the writer is whether the constantly increasing use of pesticides is a hazard to health? Since the matter is therefore much in the public mind it may be well to say something about it in this report. The first of the modern pesticides, D.D.T., has been in use for about 20 years and for most of the time exposure to this and subsequent pesticides has been inevitable. They are present in minute quantity in public water supplies and even in rain and air; and they are present in food in varying quantities. It happens that certain of these substances are absorbed by the body and stored in fat so that it is possible to measure human exposure by measuring the quantity in body fat. This has been done regularly for a number of years and the present position in this country is that, firstly, there has been little increase in exposure in the last five years and, secondly, that similar investigations in certain other countries have indicated a much higher level of exposure. Present evidence - which is based on an experience of twenty years - suggests that the use of pesticides need cause no anxiety about human health but obviously this is an area in which complacency would be most ill advised and the matter is kept under constant review.

From the earliest days of interest in public health and up to the establishment of food rationing in the last war, the term 'malnutrition' implied a shortage of essential nutrients in the diet and was associated with an underweight infant or child. Such malnutrition has only occurred in sporadic cases in the last quarter of a century but the associated folk-lore has persisted and the fat baby is still able to win baby contests and the overweight of the school child is regarded with parental approbation whilst the lean and wiry child is presented to school medical officers by anxious parents as being obviously deficient in some respect. In fact malnutrition (in this country) should now be regarded as synonymous with over nutrition and since weight control is now recognized as closely related to healthy living in adult life, the importance of avoiding bad dietary habits in childhood is obvious. The sweet eating habit, so dear to English children and to many of their parents, is unfortunate. Whatever the infinite variety in which the sugar is presented, it remains unchanged in its power to wreck teeth and to cause the laying down of fat without conferring any nutritional benefit. Whether the indictment against sugar is now complete is very doubtful and medical thought is already grouping a variety of illnesses, including diabetes, as the saccharine diseases which have in common that they are possibly related to the over consumption of sugar. Whatever may come of this in the light of further research there is already ample reason for trying to bring up children on rather less carbohydrate and a great deal less refined sugar.

Despite the foregoing references to some of the shortcomings in the state of the public health today, it is nevertheless my pleasant duty to report that Depwade enjoyed a most satisfactory year in terms of health in 1966. The average age at death reached the remarkably high figure of 75.2 years which was dramatically greater than an England and Wales figure of 71 years. Infectious disease presented no important problem and the statistics relating to maternal and child care were again most satisfactory.

## STAFF

Dr. D.F. Hadman served as your Medical Officer of Health throughout the year. As from 1st October he was appointed M.O.H. to Forehoe and Henstead Rural District Council and since this was made possible by a re-arrangement of County Council duties the new appointment had no effect on the time devoted to the affairs of your district.

Mr. F.C. Weeks, Senior Public Health Inspector and Mr. D.E. Coldham and Mr. C.R. Howes, Additional Public Health Inspectors, served throughout the year. Because of the very great increase in building control work in recent years the appointment of a third inspector in 1964 has not led to the development of public health work, (e.g. in improving arrangements for food hygiene control), that had been hoped for. It is now very clear that the appointment of a building inspector is vital if the Public Health Department is to discharge all its duties with maximum efficiency. It was disappointing that no local arrangements were made during 1966 for the training of pupil inspectors. You had agreed to engage a student if a local training course became available but after several months of optimistic waiting it was learned that Norwich City College was unable to start such a course. In view of the countrywide scarcity of inspectors this was a most unfortunate outcome.

## VITAL STATISTICS

### (a) General

The following data, with the exception of the last paragraph, is supplied by the Registrar-General. By 'correcting' the birth and death rates to allow for the age structure of Depwade compared with the rest of the country, and by treating all the district rates with the reservation due to information based on small numbers, it is possible to reach conclusions about the state of health of the District.

### (b) Population

The mid-year population of Depwade in 1966 was estimated at 17,850, this being based on the 1961 Census figure as modified by births and deaths and by the estimate of movement into and out of the District made annually by your officers to the Registrar-General. In 1966 there was a natural increase of 6 and a migratory increase of 234 in the population.

### (c) Births

Two hundred and fifty six births (149 boys and 107 girls) were registered in 1966, of which 15 were illegitimate. The crude birth rate was therefore 14.3 live births per thousand population and the corrected rate was 17.0 per thousand. This compares with the 1965 corrected rate of 15.9 and a 1966 England and Wales rate of 17.7 per thousand population.

Fourteen premature babies were born and all but one survived.

### (d) Stillbirths

Four were notified giving a stillbirth rate of 15.0 still births per 1,000 total births and this compares with the England and Wales figure for the year of 15.4. All four births occurred in hospital and two were due to congenital abnormality whilst two followed obstetric complications.

### (e) Infant Mortality

Two children died in infancy during 1966, one at the age of a month from a rare form of infantile cancer and one within a few hours of birth having been born prematurely. The infant mortality rate was therefore 7.8 infant deaths per 1,000 live births and this compares encouragingly with a national rate of 19.0 deaths.

### (f) Perinatal Mortality

This is the statistic which takes into account both stillbirths and infant deaths in the first week of life. It is thus a better index to the immediate outcome of pregnancy than either the still birth rate or the neo-natal mortality rate (deaths in the first four weeks of life) taken alone.



The perinatal rate for Depwade in 1966 was 19.2 still births and neonatal deaths per 1,000 total births and this, for a further year, contrasts very favourably with the corresponding national figure which, in 1966, was 26.3 deaths per 1,000 births.

#### (g) Deaths

Deaths totalled 250 of which 143 were male and 107 female. The preponderance of males redresses the excess of female deaths which occurred in the previous three years. It is interesting, but presumably of no significance whatever, that male births were disproportionately high in apparent compensation. The crude death rate was 14.0 deaths per 1,000 population and the corrected rate was 10.5. This may be compared with an England and Wales rate of 11.7 deaths per 1,000 population.

Table 10 shows that 149 of the deaths occurred at the age of 75 years or more, a proportion of 56%. As may be deduced from the average age at death of 75.2 years, this is an extremely satisfactory figure. However, despite this satisfaction, it remains necessary to draw attention to the very high total of 55 cancer deaths, the highest so far recorded in Depwade, and to point out that lung cancer, the most preventable of all the cancers, accounted for twelve deaths - itself the highest annual toll so far recorded in the District.

#### (h) Road Injuries Data

The following details of road accidents are again made available by the Chief Constable. The corresponding figures for 1965 are in brackets because an error was made in the table included in the report of that year.

	Killed	Seriously Injured	Slightly Injured
Drivers	1 (-)	13 (11)	43 (38)
Passengers	- (1)	20 (6)	40 (21)
Pedestrians	3 (-)	7 (3)	5 (11)
Motor Cyclists	1 (1)	16 (11)	12 (15)
Pillion passengers	- (-)	- (-)	2 (3)
Pedal cyclists	- (2)	1 (5)	8 (11)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>5 (4)</b>	<b>57 (36)</b>	<b>110 (99)</b>

#### COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Infectious disease did not present an important problem in 1966 and 156 of the 193 cases notified were of MEASLES. This disease therefore continued its normal pattern of becoming epidemic every second year.

Fourteen cases of WHOOPING COUGH were notified and three of these were in children who had received adequate dosage of the appropriate preventive vaccine. A good deal of enquiry has recently been made into the possibility of the vaccine being ineffective against new strains of whooping cough bacilli. The case is still sub-judice but, in view of the difficulty of positive diagnosis in whooping cough, the three cases referred to should not be regarded as of any significance.

TUBERCULOSIS was notified on three occasions. Two of the cases were pulmonary, being women of 60 and 32 years, and the third was a man of 58 with a tuberculous leg bone.

It will be known that an anti-tuberculous vaccine, B.C.G., is offered to all school children at 13 years who have not already gained a degree of natural immunity by exposure to the disease. A preliminary skin test is used to identify this group and the proportion of children with a positive skin test is therefore some index of the extent of the disease in the area. The results of this test at the two Depwade secondary schools were that only four of 110 children were positive, a percentage of less than four whilst the percentage of positive reactors in Norfolk generally was of the order of 15%. This result strongly suggests that there are few unknown cases of infectious tuberculosis in the District.

In a farming area the zoonoses or diseases of animals transmissible to man are of special interest. BRUCELLOSIS which presents as contagious abortion in cattle was the subject of much discussion during the year and a point has now been reached at which virtually all interested parties recognize the great waste, in terms of farming economy, which the infection causes and are agreed that eradication is overdue. It would seem that some sort of a pilot eradication scheme is now being mounted and will start in areas where the disease is relatively rare. This is a welcome step but even if a total eradication scheme was already launched it would not merit special plaudit since most of the major countries of Europe have already succeeded in eliminating brucellosis. In fact only one milk sample from a Depwade herd was found to contain brucella germs during 1966. The milk from this herd is sent for pasteurisation before sale and thus no public health problem presented.

No case of ANTHRAX, another important zoonosis, was reported during the year but there were several instances of SALMONELLA infection in calves. Salmonella germs, of which there are very many different types, are the most common cause of food poisoning in man. They are primarily a germ parasite of animals, especially calves, and if the animal reservoir did not exist then human infection would cease. In fact the effective animal reservoir has probably increased in recent years and the responsibility may lie in new methods of animal commerce. Calves are supplied by dealers to all parts of the country and an infected calf herd may therefore disseminate the infection widely. Contamination of transport vehicles by scouring animals may then, in the absence of an adequate vehicle cleansing system, lead to further spread to other herds. A particular problem arises from the practice of consigning calves not direct to a specific buyer but to the market place where the animals may infect or be infected. If the price is right the calves are sold but if not they are moved on to other markets. Each time the infected animal has opportunity of transmitting its infection and the healthy calf, susceptible by stress and exposed to salmonellosis, may acquire the infection. Four cases of calf infection were notified during the year and there were two cases of human salmonella food poisoning.

BACILLARY DYSENTERY due to the not very virulent Sonnei germ occurred in the south of the District at the beginning of the year and although the diagnosis was made in only two cases a retrospective enquiry suggested that others might previously have been infected. In addition to these indigenous cases a further four residents were infected with dysentery at Norwich institutions.

SCABIES and HEAD INFESTATION occurred more than once in 1966 and furnished further evidence that standards of personal hygiene, which have been assumed to have risen steadily with the increasing standard of education, may, for the time being, have slipped a little. A proportion of young people pass through a phase in which scruffiness is the correct thing and this facet of the modern human behaviour pattern is having a recognizable, though not very important, effect on the public health.

SMALLPOX was epidemic elsewhere in the country in the form of the unusual variola minor. It is of local interest that the first recognized outbreak of this disease in England occurred in the Waveney Valley in 1919. On this recent occasion Norfolk remained uninvolved although one case of a typical chicken pox caused some concern in Area 5. Vaccination against smallpox reached a figure of 61% of Depwade infants which is still not satisfactory but an improvement on the low figure of the previous two years. The vaccination of children after the first birthday instead of in infancy was not popular when the change was made some four years ago and was no doubt the reason for a falling acceptance rate. It seems that the trend has now been halted and reversed.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

The following paragraphs do not provide a full account of this broad subject but full details may be found in the attached reports of the Engineer and the Senior Public Health Inspector.

##### (a) Housing

Private enterprise built just about the same number of dwellings in 1966 as in the previous year and so the building boom of the last five years seems to have levelled off. Council completed its Harleston development of 32 houses.

Further progress was made in dealing with unfit property. In the 1964 Report reference was made to the Housing Repairs and Rents Act of 1954 and to the estimate at that time of 900 unfit houses which were to be dealt with in a 20 year programme.



In 1964, at the half way mark, just over 450 had been accounted for. The position at the end of 1966 was that another 106 properties had been dealt with either by demolition, by closure as human habitation or by modernisation.

Progress was also made in modernising the remaining 390 pre-war Council houses without waterborne sanitation and 108 were dealt with. It might be held that Council has delayed this work unnecessarily long but the order of priority has probably been right despite the local feeling which one encounters from time to time. There are dwellings still awaiting modernisation which are in greater need than were others already finished but there is reason for these apparent anomalies. Usually it is that dwellings on the line of a proposed sewer have had to wait for the sewer to be built whilst those which will not be sewered in the foreseeable future have been modernised and put on to a septic tank system as opportunity presented.

#### (b) Sewage Disposal

The Denton sewerage scheme was completed and a number of other rural schemes progressed through the lengthy routine of planning, approval and tender. Work commenced on the Fersfield sewer and this will be brought into service in 1967. There were sound reasons why it was not possible to connect certain of the properties using the old airfield sewer but it was obviously with great regret that Council found it necessary to require property owners to revert from main drainage to septic tank disposal - a reversal of the usual order of public health progress.

#### (c) Water Supply

A few short lengths of main were laid and the percentage of Depwade residents supplied by mains water was estimated at 93.6 at the close of the year. Bacteriological examination of mains water was satisfactory although a new main at Starston was persistently contaminated for many months after being laid. There was little doubt that soil organisms had been trapped in the grease used in jointing the pipes and that these germs were gradually released into the water flow during the months of sampling. The organisms were almost certainly harmless but it was nevertheless necessary to recommend boiling of all water for drinking.

In January the County Council decided not to support fluoridation of water supplies and since only the local health authority has power to meet the cost of the measure your Council had no course but to accept the decision. Later in the year Great Yarmouth decided for fluoridation - as did a number of more remote authorities - and it is possible that Norfolk will have second and more mature thoughts before long.

#### (d) Food Hygiene

Standards of food hygiene were generally satisfactory although there is certainly room for improvement and, no doubt, improvement will occur as modernisation of shops proceeds.

A circular was received from the Ministry of Health during the year concerning hygiene and meat inspection in poultry processing establishments. It is quite impracticable to arrange professional inspection of every carcase - as is the practice with larger animals - and regular visits to the establishments to ensure sound standards of hygiene are all that present circumstances permit.

#### (e) Public Health Nuisances

Consideration was given to two aspects of the impingement of housing development on animal husbandry and of subsequent complaint of farmyard nuisance. Firstly, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government considered that there was a case for withholding planning permission to housing development in situations where neighbouring agricultural activity would constitute a nuisance to the new residents. Secondly, it was considered whether, in the event that housing had developed in proximity to a farm, any consequent serious nuisance should be treated as a statutory nuisance and abatement action taken. The Ministry considered that normal action should be taken and it appeared that the fact that the farmer was there first did not provide him with any privilege.

A significant danger to health is caused by the contamination of lay-byes which, with their surrounding area, tend to become used as a public lavatory. It was hoped to obtain the support of the County Council in constructing a public convenience at the Homersfield lay-by on the A143 road but this was not forthcoming, probably because the Ministry of Transport has not yet reached conclusions from its



trunk roads pilot scheme. The problem is a difficult one. The responsibility of the public health authority is to prevent a threat to health and not to provide lavatory accommodation for road users who are already catered for by garages and public houses. Public conveniences will only achieve this if they are proof against vandals and those of insanitary habits. The results of the Ministry experiment will indicate whether this is possible. Meantime it will be helpful if any new lay-byes are sited in open country and not, as is the case at Homersfield, adjacent to woodland cover.

The wet year was favourable to rat increase and they caused widespread nuisance. The rat-catcher dealt with all the complaints received in the office but it is clearly impossible for one man to exert a really significant influence on the natural increase and decrease of the animal throughout an area the size of Depwade. Effective rat control would be achieved either by a major official campaign on the lines of the anti-coyppu effort, or by persuading each farmer and householder to take personal action. A major campaign would not be economically possible for a district council and, in any case, it would be fruitless to mount such a campaign unless neighbouring authorities were doing likewise. From this point of view it may be thought that the 1949 Pests Act, which transferred responsibility for rodent control from county to district, was not a helpful measure. With regard to widespread action by the public, one of the principal difficulties is the frustration of the individual who clears his own rats only to be re-infested from neighbouring property. A local authority should do all it can to encourage individual effort and it may be that statutory action should be taken a little more often than is usually the case. Warfarin remains the rodenticide of choice and is efficient when properly used. Reports were published during the year of Warfarin resistant rats on the Welsh border and the failure of faulty baiting technique has since been blamed on 'resistance' wherever it has occurred. In fact no Warfarin resistant rat has been found in East Anglia.

#### COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES

A brief account of the welfare services provided under the National Health Service and National Assistance Acts was included in the Report for 1965 and the various official and voluntary agencies continued this excellent work in 1966.

The Home Help Service continued to expand and this undoubtedly enables many elderly people to continue in their own homes rather than to go into county accommodation when they begin to have difficulty in looking after themselves. It is excellent that Depwade intends to build its first grouped home scheme for the elderly at Harleston in 1967 since this will enable the residents (who will live in their separate centrally heated dwellings but who will have the comfort of immediate aid if they need it) to hold on to their independence for so long as they may wish to. The Meals-on-Wheels service also plays a most important part in caring for the welfare of the elderly and it was extended to Harleston during the year. Your Council decided to increase its contribution to £15 in respect of each Meals-on-Wheels scheme. The Old Peoples' Clubs do most valuable work in countering the common loneliness of age and an eighth such club was opened at Ashwellthorpe and is a joint venture with Wreningham.

The Depwade and Diss Committee of the Norfolk Association for the Care of the Physically Handicapped continued its work, as did the agencies responsible for the welfare of the mentally ill and the mentally handicapped. The social centres for subnormal adolescents and adults at Spooner Row and Woodton filled a vital need in helping these people to feel wanted and part of the community. The public attitude to mental disorder has changed greatly in recent years but there is still much room for more humanity and the social centres do make for a better understanding.

The problem of hypothermia in the elderly remained in mind and with the onset of colder weather a leaflet was sent out to home helps and others which explained the danger; how it is prevented, recognized and treated. At the same time low reading clinical thermometers were made available to nurses so that suspected low body temperatures could be confirmed and minimum reading thermometers were also made available so that lowest bedroom temperatures could be recorded. Since the winter proved mild there was fortunately little evidence of hypothermia but the arrangements will prove their value in due course.

#### HEALTH EDUCATION

Some general reflections on this subject appear in the introduction to this report. The Health Education Sub-Committee arranged various activities during the

year of which a school essay competition was perhaps the most successful. Over 200 children at Redenhall, Diss and Long Stratton Secondary Modern Schools wrote on "Smoking - and how I would persuade a child of mine not to get the habit" and they showed an encouraging degree of thought and imagination. Other activities included a display of health education material in libraries, schools and at fetes and, in addition, a showing of health educational films was included at Harleston Fete.

#### CONCLUSION

I am again grateful to the Chairman of Council and the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their encouragement and support throughout the year. I would like also to acknowledge the ready co-operation of my colleagues at Depwade and at the Norwich Office.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant

D.F. Hadman

Local Health Office,  
Aspland Road,  
NORWICH,  
NOR 19S.



# DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT - 1966

Table 1 GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	79,742
Estimated Resident Population	17,850
Rateable Value	£391,183
Sum Produced by a Penny Rate	£1,531

Table 2 LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	139	102	241
Illegitimate	10	5	15
Totals	149	107	256

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Resident Population - 14.3

Table 3 STILL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	3	1	4

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of Total Births - 15.0

Table 4 TOTAL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Live	149	107	256
Still	3	1	4

Table 5 INFANT DEATHS

## (a) Infant Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 1 year)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	1	1	2

## Infant Mortality Rates:

Total - 7.8 (per 1,000 live births)  
 Legitimate - 8.3 (per 1,000 legitimate births)  
 Illegitimate - 0.0 (per 1,000 illegitimate births)

## (b) Neo-Natal Mortality (Deaths of Infants during the first four weeks)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) - 3.9

## (c) Early Neo-Natal Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 1 week)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) - 3.9

## (d) Perinatal Mortality (Still births and deaths under 1 week)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Perinatal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births) - 19.2



Table 6 ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS

Males - 10 Females - 5 Total - 15 (5.9% of total live births)

Table 7 MATERNAL DEATHS (Including abortion) - Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births) - 0.0

Table 8 DEATHS (All ages)

Males	Females	Total
143	107	250

Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 of Estimated Resident Population)-14.0

Table 9 CAUSE OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

Cause	Males	Females	Total
Lymphatic Neoplasm	1	-	1
Prematurity	-	1	1
Totals	1	1	2

Table 10 NOTIFICATIONS OF DEATHS RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR  
(According to Age Groups)

	Males	Females	Total
Under 1 year	1	1	2
1 and under 5	-	-	-
5 " " 15	2	-	2
15 " " 25	1	-	1
25 " " 35	2	1	3
35 " " 45	6	1	7
45 " " 55	7	4	11
55 " " 65	16	4	20
65 " " 75	35	20	55
75 and over	73	76	149
Totals	143	107	250

Table 11. CAUSE OF DEATHS (Registrar-General)

Cause	Males	Females	Total
3. Syphilitic disease	-	1	1
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	-	5
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	9	3	12
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	4	4
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	20	10	30
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	2	-	2
16. Diabetes	-	3	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	17	27	44
18. Coronary disease, angina	30	20	50
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	1	1
20. Other heart diseases	17	9	26
21. Other circulatory diseases	5	9	14
22. Influenza	-	2	2
23. Pneumonia	11	6	17
24. Bronchitis	5	-	5
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	2
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	4	11
33. Motor vehicle accidents	6	-	6
34. All other accidents	3	4	7
35. Suicide	2	-	2
36. Homicide	-	1	1
Totals	143	107	250

Table 12. SUMMARY OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS RATES

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Live Births (per 1,000 pop.)	(255)	(234)	(217)	(260)	(285)	(236)	(256)
Depwade R.D.	14.3	13.4	12.4	14.9	16.3	13.4	14.3
Area 5.	11.1	14.2	13.9	15.2	14.9	14.4	15.0
England & Wales (provisional)	17.1	17.4	18.0	18.2	18.4	18.1	17.7
Still Births (per 1,000 total births)	(6)	(2)	(5)	(8)	(1)	(3)	(4)
Depwade R.D.	23.0	8.5	22.5	29.9	3.5	12.6	15.0
Area 5	20.7	8.9	21.4	29.1	6.7	13.5	17.5
England & Wales (provisional)	19.7	18.7	18.1	17.3	16.3	15.7	15.4
Crude Deaths (per 1,000 pop.)	(240)	(252)	(211)	(234)	(237)	(270)	(250)
Depwade P.D.	13.4	14.4	12.1	13.4	13.6	15.3	14.0
Area 5	11.8	12.4	12.1	12.2	12.9	13.3	11.9
England & Wales (provisional)	11.5	12.0	11.9	12.2	11.3	11.5	11.7
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(1)	(7)	(1)	(2)
Depwade R.D.	11.8	12.8	13.8	3.8	24.6	4.2	7.8
Area 5	14.1	9.0	14.5	11.6	20.5	6.8	14.6
England & Wales (provisional)	21.7	21.4	21.4	20.9	20.0	19.0	19.0

NOTE: 1. Figures in brackets are the actual numbers for Depwade R.D.

2. Area 5 comprises Depwade & Loddon R.D.'s and Diss & Wymondham U.D.'s  
Also Forehoe & Henstead R.D. from 1.10.66 but statistics for this  
district have not been included in this annual report.



Table 13. DEATHS DUE TO CANCER - Depwade R.D.

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Number of deaths	42	36	35	30	36	32	55
Percentage of total deaths	17.5	14.3	16.6	12.8	15.2	11.9	22.0

Table 14. CANCER DEATHS DURING LAST FIVE YEARS - Depwade R.D.

Year	Male			Female		
	Total Deaths	Total Cancer Deaths	Cancer of Lung	Total Deaths	Total Cancer Deaths	Cancer of Lung
1966	143	34 <sup>b</sup>	9	107	19	3
1965	129	14	7	141	18	1
1964	115	18	9	122	18	1
1963	109	13	2	125	17	1
1962	106	12	5	105	23	1
Totals	602	91 <sup>3</sup>	32	600	95	7

Table 15. NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS)

(According to Age Groups - Depwade R.D.)

	Under 1	1-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	Over 25	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	2	5	1	-	8
Measles	-	49	103	4	-	156
Whooping Cough	-	5	8	1	-	14
Pneumonia	-	-	3	-	3	6
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	1	1
Jaundice	-	2	-	-	1	3
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	1	1
S. Dysentary	-	1	1	1	1	4
Totals	-	59	120	7	7	193

Table 16. NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS)DURING LAST FIVE YEARS - Depwade R.D.

	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Scarlet Fever	17	5	6	7	8
Measles	8	291	236	46	156
Whooping Cough	28	5	18	23	14
Pneumonia	6	7	5	6	6
Infective Jaundice	6	-	2	2	3
Erysipelas	1	1	1	2	1
Dysentary (Sonne)	-	-	-	-	4
Food Poisoning	-	2	-	5	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	67	312	268	91	193

Table 17. DETAILS OF NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS FOR LAST FIVE YEARS  
Depwade R.D.

	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Pulmonary					
Male	2	1	1	1	-
Female	-	1	1	1	2
Non-Pulmonary					
Male	-	1	-	1	1
Female	1	-	-	1	-
Depwade R.D. Total	3	3	2	4	3
Area 5. Total	8	7	7	8	10

Table 18. VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

Vaccination of children (under five years of age) during the last five years, resident in the District and Area 5, are shown in the following table.

	Depwade R.D.					Area 5.				
	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Number of live births registered	217	260	285	236	256	550	601	592	584	617
Number of vaccinations recorded (0-4 years).	176	96	134	150	156	420	222	276	326	417
Percentage Vaccinated	81	37	47	64	61	76	37	46	56	67

Table 19 DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following is the number of primary immunisations and booster injections given during the last five years in respect of Area 5.

Year	Primary Injections			Booster Injections	
	Under 1	Total under 5	Age 5-14	Under 5	Age 5-14
1966	256	594	34	370	670
1965	165	474	74	210	899
1964	204	486	28	125	342
1963	244	547	97	94	861
1962	155	448	28	48	304



Table 20. VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS.

The following is the number of primary immunisations and boosters given in Area 5 since the scheme commenced. Table A shows the numbers immunised with the Salk vaccine (by injection) and Table B those given the Sabin vaccine (Oral) which became generally available in mid-1962.

(A) SALK

Year	Primary			Booster (3rd)			Booster (4th)
	Age 0-4	Age 5-14	Age 15+	Age 0-4	Age 5-14	Age 15+	Age 5-12
1966	4	-	*	10	2	2	-
1965	28	2	*	18	7	*	-
1964	24	5	1	30	5	-	5
1963	31	4	26	42	6	31	-
1962	234	37	151	294	115	914	27
1961	601	535	2068	427	228	824	3017
1960	397	227	853	660	566	1636	-
1959	593	677	2220	1377	3261	864	-
1958	1648	3159	154	32	1284	2	-
1957	197	1115	-	-	-	-	-
1956	40	121	-	-	-	-	-

(B) SABIN

Year	Primary			Booster (3rd- after 2 Salk)			Booster (4th)
	Age 0-4	Age 5-14	Age 15+	Age 0-4	Age 5-14	Age 15+	School Age
1966	612	30	*	-	-	*	417
1965	470	39	*	-	-	*	519
1964	554	129	22	5	1	-	785
1963	424	22	15	66	2	-	483
1962	197	131	1359	230	312	1077	426

\* Records for persons over 15 years not available.

Table 21. IMMUNISATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH

The following is the number of whooping cough immunisations recorded in Area 5 during the last five years.

Year	Primary				Boosters
	Under 1	Age 1-4	Age 5-14	Total	Under 5
1966	256	336	5	597	368
1965	161	302	4	467	185
1964	202	276	8	486	89
1963	244	301	5	550	86
1962	149	291	12	452	45

Table 22 IMMUNISATION AGAINST TETANUS

The following is the number of tetanus immunisations recorded in Area 5 during the last five years. Immunisation against this disease was included in the County Council's scheme in September 1958.

Year	Primary				Booster		
	Age Under 1	Age 1-4	Age 5-14	Age 15+	Age 1-4	Age 5-14	Age 15+
1966	256	338	203	*	374	1058	*
1965	165	310	355	*	212	1589	*
1964	204	282	136	124	131	418	65
1963	242	306	504	219	100	284	44
1962	152	312	725	399	50	103	37

\*Records for persons over 15 years not available

Table 23 B.C.G. VACCINATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

This is given at the age of 13 years to all school children who do not react to the tuberculin skin test. Number of skin tests and subsequent B.C.G. vaccinations in Area 5 in the last five years is recorded.

Year	Number Skin Tested	Number Positive	Number B.C.G. Vaccinated
1966	553	67	454
1965	556	86	427
1964	474	68	382
1963	472	97	352
1962	586	146	434



# DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR 1966.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year 1966, giving detailed information of the work carried out by the Department during the year and of the environmental health conditions existing in the District at the end of the year.

The report is on the same lines as those of previous years and in accordance with the information required by Ministry of Health Circular No.1/67. It indicates another year's steady progress in maintaining the services operated by the Department and improvement in the general living and working conditions of the public being served.

### PART I - G E N E R A L

#### (a) Staff.

There were no changes in staff personnel during 1966. The two additional Inspectors (Messrs. Coldham and Howes) and clerks (Miss P.A.Hogg and Mr.R.G. Close) continued to give extremely good service.

#### (b) New Legislation.

No new major statutes affecting the work of the Department were passed in 1966. Circulars and statutory instruments were issued by the various Government Departments on the following subjects:-

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food - Slaughterhouses, Meat Inspection, Milk and Dairies, Imported Food, and the new Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations.

Ministry of Housing and Local Government - The Building Regulations, Rent Control, the Clean Air Act and the Town and Country Planning Act.

Ministry of Labour - The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act.

Home Office - Petroleum Spirit (Conveyance by Road) (Amendment) Regulations.

#### (c) General Working of the Department.

The following table indicates how the various aspects of the Department's duties take up the time of the Inspectors. This is by no means a true picture of time taken up, as one visit may in some circumstances take much longer than another, but as this is the only means of comparison, I consider the figures worth recording.

It will be observed that with one exception the figures show a slight increase under each heading with an overall increase of 376 (just over 4%). This is particularly gratifying as during the year rather more time than usual was lost through sickness, and the increasing amount of time having to be spent in the office (especially by myself) in handling correspondence, answering personal and telephone enquiries from the public, scrutiny of plans, and so on. As was to be expected, building control work still demanded about half the Inspectors' time, but at the same time the slightly higher proportion of time being devoted to food premises in 1965 was able to be maintained. With the appointment of a full time Building Inspector in 1967, there should be a marked improvement in the Public Health figures all round next year. The figures in brackets are those corresponding for 1965.

	<u>Number of visits or inspections</u>		<u>Percentage of total</u>	
*Slaughterhouses for meat inspection and other purposes ... ..	693	(674)	7.7	(7.8)
Housing (including Grants)	1484	(1384)	16.5	(16.1)
Public Health matters - nuisances, water supplies, infectious diseases etc.	921	(871)	10.3	(10.1)
Scavenging (including public conveniences) ...	563	(528)	6.3	(6.1)
Food premises ... ..	291	(265)	3.2	(3.1)
Other matters (factories, rodent control, petroleum storage and miscellaneous visits).	595	(605)	6.6.	(7.0)
Building Regulation and Planning control .. ...	4442	(4286)	49.4	(49.8)
	8989	(8613)		

Note: \*This figure includes 111 visits to slaughterhouses for meat inspection at week-ends by the private veterinary officers.

## PART II - H O U S I N G

### (a) General.

At April 1st. 1966, the Valuation List contained 6455 separate dwellings, an increase of 35 over the previous year. The Registrar General's mid-year population estimate was 17,850 (240 increase over 1965). Based on these figures, the average occupation index (persons per dwelling) for 1966 was 2.765 (slightly higher than the figure for 1965).

### (b) New Housing.

During the year a total of 221 new dwellings were erected in the District, 189 by private enterprise and 32 by the Council. This is a new record high figure and represents an increase of 15 over the previous year.

Of the 189 private dwellings erected, 10 were traditional two storey houses, 34 were chalet-type, 134 traditionally built bungalows, 10 bricked and tiled prefabricated bungalows, and 1 flat.

It is also of interest to note that of these private dwellings, 5 were of 4 or more bedrooms, 132 were of 3 bedrooms and 52 of 2 bedrooms.

### (c) Slum Clearance - Action under Housing Act, 1957 on Unfit Dwellings.

A further 45 unfit dwellings were represented to the Public Health Committee as being beyond economic repair, and following inspection by the appointed Sub-Committee, action taken thereon (plus 8 brought forward from 1965) was as follows:-



(i)	Demolition Orders made ... ..	21
(ii)	Undertakings accepted not to relet till rendered fit or to repair within agreed time	5
(iii)	Closing Orders made.. ... ..	-
(iv)	Deferred for consideration of action at a later stage of Slum Clearance Programme ...	16
(v)	Carried forward for action in 1967 ... ..	11
		<hr/> 53 <hr/>

In addition one demolition order was made in respect of a cottage previously subject to a closing order.

Three statutory undertakings were cancelled and two demolition orders and one closing order revoked, following the execution of repair works to being the dwellings up to a satisfactory standard.

43 unfit dwellings were demolished in the year (7 without formal action having been taken).

The following table shows the position with regard to unfit dwellings subject to statutory orders still standing in the District at the end of the year:-

	<u>Demolition Orders</u>	<u>Closing Orders</u>	<u>Undertakings</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number occupied .....	77 (85)	12 (15)	9 (10)	98 (110)
Number vacant .....	84 (84)	18 (18)	79 (83)	181 (185)
Totals .....	<hr/> 161(169) <hr/>	<hr/> 30 (33) <hr/>	<hr/> 88 (93) <hr/>	<hr/> 279 (295) <hr/>

The figures in brackets are those corresponding for 1965.

In spite of the number of unfit dwellings being demolished or reconditioned each year, whilst the Slum Clearance Programme continues, it is inevitable that these figures will remain fairly constant. It is however gratifying to note that the number still occupied has dropped to below 100 for the first time for several years. All these properties are kept under close observation and appropriate action taken to enforce demolition orders or advise on possible reconditioning as opportunity arises.

Four informal notices were sent out requiring the execution of repairs to dwellings and all complied with without recourse to statutory action. One formal notice was served under Sec. 93 of the Public Health Act for repairs to a cottage (as a follow-up to informal action taken in 1965) and the necessary repairs were subsequently carried out.

So far as this aspect of housing is concerned, it must not be overlooked that all dwellings improved with the aid of improvement grants are brought up to a satisfactory standard of repair at the same time.

(d) Housing Improvement Grants.

The number of grants approved during 1966 was somewhat lower than the figures for the past year or so, and is fair indication that the peak of this work has been passed. The large estates in the District have brought most of the suitable cottages up to standard and the majority of applications now received are in respect of dwellings that change hands which the new owners intend to improve before occupation.

(i) Discretionary Grants. 31 new applications were received, and with 9 cases brought forward from 1965, 37 were approved and 3 left over to be dealt with in 1967.

The 37 grants approved were for a total amount of £13,410 - averaging £362. 9s. per grant (only slightly higher than the average for 1965). 7 of the approved grants were towards the cost of providing additional units of housing accommodation. The total number of Discretionary Grants approved up to the end of 1966 was 624, to a total value of £161,144. One grant was repaid during the year, following a breach of grant conditions.

(ii) Standard Grants. 67 new applications were received, and with one brought forward from the previous year, were all approved. These covered the installation of the following amenities:-

<u>Baths</u>	<u>Wash-basins</u>	<u>W.Cs.</u>	<u>Hot water supplies</u>	<u>Food stores</u>
62	61	66	65	34

83 Standard Grants were certified for payment for a total of £11,319.14.4d. averaging £136.7.7d. per grant - less than £1 more than the average for 1965. The total number of Standard Grants paid up to the end of 1966 was exactly 400 to a total value of £49,546. Two of these grants were also repaid - terms of grant having been broken.

(iii) General. A breakdown of the 105 grants approved during the year indicates the types of dwellings being improved with grant aid:-

<u>Type of dwelling improved.</u>	<u>Discretionary * Grants.</u>		<u>Standard Grants.</u>	
Private dwellings- owner/occupied ....	16	(43%)	35	(51%)
Private dwellings - rented .....	10	(27%)	14	(21%)
Farm-houses .....	2	(6%)	3	(4%)
Tied agricultural dwellings .....	9	(24%)	16	(24%)
Totals approved 1966 .....	37		68	

In connection with the subject of Improvement Grants, it is pleasing to note from the Norfolk County Report of the 1966 Sample Census that 61% of all dwellings in Depwade now have a hot water supply, bath and W.C., compared with a figure of 40% at the 1961 Census - which gives some indication of the excellent progress made in the last five years, with both Council and private dwellings.

(e) Overcrowding.

Three cases of overcrowding (2 statutory and 1 'bedroom standard') were abated during the year, but unfortunately two new cases were added to the register, leaving the position at the end of the year as follows:-

	No. at <u>31.12.65</u>	Added <u>1966</u>	Abated <u>1966</u>	No. at <u>31.12.66</u>
Overcrowded dwellings -				
(a) On Statutory standard.	5	1	2	4
(b) On 'Bedroom' standard.	3	1	1	3

Whilst admitting that the statutory standard for overcrowding is a low one, and that any dwelling in such a state is almost 'bursting at the seams,' I think it fair comment that if it is only known that 7 dwellings out of over 6,000 are affected by overcrowding of any kind, it is not a very serious state of affairs.

(f) Cleanliness of Dwellings.

Once again I am pleased to be able to report that generally the cleanliness of dwellings inspected during the year was of a very high standard. Three cases of dwellings being infested by fleas were found (two Council houses and one private) - two of which were treated by fumigation and the other left over for treatment in 1967.

(g) Moveable Dwellings - Caravans.

At the end of 1965 we had 62 caravans (mainly on individual sites) in use for human habitation - in one form or another. During the year 19 of these were removed, but exactly the same number were approved and brought into use, leaving us with 62 again at the end of the year. About half of these are occupied by families unable to find or provide satisfactory permanent accommodation, the remainder by single elderly persons, by people on building plots pending the erection of new dwellings or for weekend recreational purposes. Personally I consider that residential caravans are more satisfactorily controlled on individual sites than on communal sites, and in fact if the individual site is carefully chosen and treated by screening, there is less amenity objection. However, as we have no communal sites, perhaps I am being unfair to judge without experience; this omission is likely to be rectified in the near future, when a site already given outline Town Planning approval is brought into use.

All the sites in the District are kept under regular observation and I am pleased to report that no breach of your site licence conditions came to my notice.

The two holiday caravan sites at Wortwell have also been found to be conducted in a satisfactory manner, and 3 certified camping sites were visited in the peak holiday period and no complaints found.

(h) Common Lodging Houses.

I can again formally report that there are none of these premises within the District.

PART III - WATER SUPPLIES.

(a) Mains Supplies.

A total of 106 samples were taken from the Council mains supplies and submitted for bacteriological examination.

47 of these were taken as a routine check of existing supplies - 6 were reported as unsatisfactory because of excessive non-faecal bacterial counts; in all cases this was considered to be due to 'dirty' taps and subsequent samples taken at the same premises after sterilising the taps proved quite satisfactory.



12 samples were taken from various lengths of new main to check the purity of the supply before it was put to use; only one sample failed and further sterilising treatment of the main produced a satisfactory result.

The remaining 47 samples were taken from one particular length of new main to serve three properties in the Parish of Starston; of these 28 were unsatisfactory and it took a period of 7 months, during which all the usual methods of sterilisation and treatment, and a new one, were carried out, before the supply could be approved for use. It was concluded that the cause of the trouble was that a piece of foreign matter had been wedged in the pipes - probably at a joint - when the main was laid, and although a good sample would be obtained after sterilising and flushing, the offending substance would then break down and a subsequent sample produced a 'bad' result. In all my experience, this particular length of new main proved to be the most difficult I have ever encountered, and clearly shows the necessity of contractors ensuring that pipes that have often been lying on the verge for a time being reasonably clean and free from foreign matter before they are laid and jointed.

Note: Full information as to the operation and maintenance of the Council's water supply service is contained in the report submitted by the Engineer and Surveyor.

#### (b) Private Supplies.

14 samples of water were taken from private sources and submitted for bacteriological examination.

2 bores at farms gave good results, but of the remaining 12 samples taken from 7 shallow wells only one could be accepted as satisfactory. Three properties subsequently arranged to be connected to Council mains, four cottages using two of the wells are to be abandoned by the owner as being uneconomical to recondition, and one case (an unoccupied bungalow) was still outstanding at the end of the year.

### PART IV - SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES & PREMISES

#### (a) Meat Inspection.

The same five licensed slaughterhouses continued in use throughout 1966. Two - at Carleton Rode and Earsham - are operated by wholesalers and account for the bulk of the meat produced; the other three - at Long Stratton, Hempnall and Brockdish - are of the domestic type, catering only for the butcher's shops on the same sites. There were no major changes at any of the premises and all were found to be conducted in a satisfactory manner, in accordance with the relevant Regulations.

The table overleaf - produced in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry circular - shows the number of animals slaughtered (and inspected) and incidence of disease found therein.

The total number of animals slaughtered is a new record high figure - being 3,274 up on the previous year. Once again the incidence of tuberculosis is confined to pigs, but no carcasses were found to be affected by a generalised condition; the incidence percentage figure is a trifle lower than the previous year's. The incidence of other diseases is somewhat higher than in 1965, due, I think to the number of Irish cattle affected by liver fluke and an increasing amount of virus pneumonia found in pigs. The number of cattle found to be affected by cysticercus bovis was exactly the same as in 1965, but indicates slightly lower incidence as more cattle were slaughtered. Each of the animals concerned was only found to be affected in either the heart or cheek muscle, and the carcasses passed for consumption following refrigeration treatment in the approved manner.

	Cattle ex. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed	1790	688	1246	1960	21426	27110
Number inspected (Percentage)	1790 100%	688 100%	1246 100%	1960 100%	21426 100%	27110 100%
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses	-	10	27	2	41	80
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	167	245	1	25	836	1274
Percentage of number inspected affected	9.3%	37.1%	2.2%	1.4%	4.1%	5.0%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	344	344
Percentage of number inspected affected	-	-	-	-	1.6%	1.3%
<u>Cysticerci</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	6	3	-	-	-	9
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	6	3	-	-	-	9
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note: No horses were slaughtered.

The number of whole carcasses and offal condemned (80) is an increase of 10 over the previous year, but roughly proportionate to the number killed. The majority of these are animals brought to the slaughterhouses for casualty slaughter, and the number condemned is no reflection on the general quality of meat produced in the District. Details of these carcasses with the causes for condemnation are as follows:-

4 cows	.... emaciation/poorness.	1 sheep	.... septicaemia.
1 cow	.... general extensive bruising.	1 sheep	.... septic peritonitis.
2 cows	.... septicaemia.	6 pigs	.... fevered.
2 cows	.... fevered.	6 pigs	.... general extensive bruising.
1 cow	.... pleurisy/peritonitis.	5 pigs	.... acute swine erysipelas.
5 calves	.... septicaemia.	4 pigs	.... peritonitis.
8 calves	.... immature.	4 pigs	.... septic pericarditis.
4 calves	.... fevered.	3 pigs	.... septicaemia.
2 calves	.... toxæmia.	4 pigs	.... moribund.
3 calves	.... umbilical pyaemia.	3 pigs	.... emaciation/poorness.
1 calf	.... uraemia.	3 pigs	.... pyaemia.
1 calf	.... moribund.	1 pig	.... septic arthritis.
1 calf	.... peritonitis.	1 pig	.... anaemia.
1 calf	.... pyelonephritis.	1 pig	.... septic pleurisy.
1 calf	.... general/extensive bruising.		

The estimate total weight of meat and offals condemned as unfit for human food was 12 tons 12 cwts. - about 3 tons up on the previous year, but again roughly proportionate to the extra number of animals slaughtered. The condemned meat has continued to be stained in the recommended manner and removed for processing by approved firms.



On normal working days meat inspection was carried out by your inspectors (the two additional inspectors sharing the bulk) and during the year involved the working of 118 hours overtime - a further reduction on that worked previously. As a result of informal arrangements made with the licensees of the two larger slaughterhouses towards the end of the year, the necessity of working overtime on this work was considerably reduced, and I am able to report that the arrangements have since proved quite satisfactory. Week-end meat inspection continued to be carried out by the two same firms of private veterinary surgeons, who also stand in on other occasions of sickness or holiday of our own staff. I am very grateful for the co-operation received from these firms in this respect.

The Council's income from meat inspection charges in 1966 was £1,209.6.6d. - £131.4.6d. more than in 1965, and the highest annual income yet.

#### Slaughter of Animals Act - Slaughterman's Licences.

20 of the Slaughterman's Licences issued in 1965 were renewed in 1966, and three new licences issued. The latter were issued to young men attaining the minimum age of 18 years, and made provisional that they only act in the presence of a fully licensed slaughterman for a probationary period. All the licensed slaughtermen working in our slaughterhouses were found to carry out their duties in a satisfactory manner.

#### (b) Inspection of Other Foods.

Once again I am able to report that in the course of routine inspection of food shops and preparing premises, no unsound or unfit food was found, nor were any complaints relating to food or food premises received from members of the public.

Only on six occasions were the inspectors' services requested to inspect doubtful food (3 from shop-keepers, 2 from a County Home, and one from a school canteen) as a result of which the following were 'condemned' for the reason stated:-

- 78 lbs. Canadian Cheddar cheese - decomposition.
- 7 lbs. Haddock fillets - decomposition.
- 1 tin of Grapefruit - decomposition due to leaking can.
- 2 tins of Chopped ham - decomposition due to leaking can.
- 1 tin of Ham - decomposition due to leaking can.
- 2 tins of Unsweetened Condensed milk - blown tins.

Generally speaking my experience is that the majority of food stuffs offered for sale in shops to-day are of a high standard of quality, but difficulties do sometimes arise over bad rotation of stocks and retaining certain perishable foods like made-up meat dishes on sale for a longer period than is intended by the makers. For this reason I have always supported the contention that certain manufactured foods, such as meat pies and packed sausages, should have the date of production and advised safe 'life' period stamped on the outer wrapping.

#### (c) Food Premises.

The number of the various types of food shops and other premises handling food (other than slaughterhouses and dairies) in use in the District at the end of 1966 were as follows (with comparable figures for 1965 in brackets):-

General food shops .....	84	(85)
Butcher's shops .....	17	(18)
Fish shops (inc. fried fish & chip shops) .....	4	(4)
Fish stalls .....	2	(2)
Restaurants, cafes, etc. ....	11	(11)
Bakeries .....	4	(4)
Public houses .....	59	(61)
Poultry processing premises .....	5	(4)
Others (flour mills, factory canteens, etc.) .....	4	(4)



School canteens, and the kitchens of County Old Persons' Homes are excluded from this list, as they are visited regularly by public health staff of the County Council.

Although, as stated in Part I of the report, it was possible in 1966 to increase the number of routine visits to food premises to 291, I do not consider that sufficient attention is yet being given to this important branch of our work. However, I can report that in the course of the inspections that were made, no serious contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations were found, but in five cases it was found necessary to write informal letters requiring attention to minor matters, which were attended to without consideration of further action being necessary (one such letter was a warning to a shop-keeper regarding smoking whilst handling food). Hand-washing facilities and sinks for cleansing food and equipment are provided at those premises so specified by the Regulations.

The fish-stalls, travelling food shops, and delivery vehicles were also inspected and generally found to be in compliance with the requirements of the Regulations, but these come due for extra attention in 1967, when new Regulations first apply. As I have stated previously, I feel that greater control could be exercised over stalls, and mobile shops (and for that matter all food premises) if they had to be registered with the Council before being brought into use.

As recently reported to the Public Health Committee, the Ministry has requested that more individual attention be given to poultry processing premises of which we have 5 known to exist in the District. These range in size from the factory at Harleston handling about 50,000 birds (mostly broilers) per week, to a relatively small concern handling a few hundred chickens of various types per week - without evisceration. To date it has not been possible to do other than visit these premises as often as we can (probably not more than twice a year) to ensure compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations, and no specific form of poultry inspection has been carried out. At the Harleston factory they carry out a form of inspection themselves and reject obviously unfit and doubtful birds, which I understand amounts to about one-third of 1% of all birds killed. That this branch of our food industry will demand much more attention from Public Health Inspectors in the not too distant future is all apparent, but I can foresee great difficulties arising, particularly with the small concerns, if adequate staff is not available to cope with the situation.

#### (d) Retail Distribution of Milk.

There were no changes in the number of persons registered for the retail distribution of milk in the District during 1966 - the number remaining at 18 - plus 3 producer retailers. All of these, and those operating from outside the District, have been found to conduct their businesses in a satisfactory manner and in accordance with statutory requirements. However, I would again express my view that all persons who retail milk in the area of a local authority should be registered with that authority, and not only with the authority from whose area they operate - otherwise no close check can be kept upon the milk distribution methods of all persons operating in a particular district.

#### (e) Ice-cream.

There was one addition to the register of premises used for the sale of ice-cream during the year - bringing the total to 64 (only one of which is registered for manufacture as well). This one apart, all ice-cream sold is prepacked. Routine inspections have indicated that the premises and their methods of storage and sale have been satisfactory.



31 samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination with the following results - Grade I (excellent) 28. Grade II (good) 2. Grade III (unsatisfactory) 1. The latter sample came from the manufacturer's premises, where it was found on investigation that some slight contamination was taking place from a 'dirty' tap on the mains water supply, and after this had been rectified, subsequent samples proved quite satisfactory.

## PART V - PUBLIC CLEANSING

### (a) Collection and Disposal of Refuse.

This service was maintained throughout 1966 on precisely the same lines as previously. The fortnightly collection in all parts of the District, except Harleston, appears to adequately meet the need without undue risk of nuisance from overlong storage of putrescible material. The amount of refuse per household continues to increase gradually and with the ever increasing number of new dwellings being erected, tends to have the available resources of the service at full stretch at all times.

The men's working week was reduced to 40 hours at the beginning of 1966, and after an experimental period, it was decided to increase the collection staff by one to offset the amount of overtime being worked. In December, W. Knights was appointed to fill this position, and has subsequently proved a satisfactory addition to the staff. This was the only change in personnel during the year, and I would again express my thanks and appreciation to all the workmen on this job for their continued efforts to make the service work as smoothly as possible.

During the year the 13 men employed on this work (including the tractor driver and the men on the cesspool emptier) lost a total of 134½ days through sickness and/or injury - slightly over 5% of the total possible working days (this is precisely the same percentage of time lost in the previous two years, and appears to be about average for this type of work).

With regard to the refuse collection vehicles, the two Karrier dual tip 18cu. yd. rear loaders purchased in 1964 and 1965 continued to give satisfactory service, and in December 1966, the small Fordson 7cu. yd. side loader, purchased in 1955, was replaced by a Karrier of similar design - primarily for use on the outlying parts of the District where properties are sparse and where access for the larger vehicles sometimes proves difficult. During the relatively short time this has been in service, it has given every satisfaction.

Once again, I am able to report that refuse was disposed of by tipping into the three main tips at Weybread, Forncett and Hempnall, and in several small pits and depressions on agricultural land throughout the District. Although I regret it is not possible to say that our form of tipping is 'controlled' in the strict sense of the word, I can report that the acquisition of the new tractor and driver in 1965 has brought about a marked improvement in the maintenance of the tips, and I cannot recall one complaint about them during the year. Every tip is surveyed regularly and treated as required for rats by the rat-catcher, and sprayed with insecticide during the warm weather to minimise nuisance from flies etc.

I cannot leave the subject to refuse disposal without again referring to the fact that with two of the pits - Weybread and Hempnall - practically full, it is apparently impossible to locate other suitable tipping sites that the owners are willing to make available for this purpose. Even otherwise co-operative persons will admit that they realise that domestic refuse has to be disposed of somewhere, but naturally prefer it being put on other people's land instead of their own. It is obvious that in the very near future we shall be in real difficulties with this problem, unless one or more new tipping sites are available, or an entirely new form of disposal is brought into use.

(b) Emptying of Earth-closet Pails.

The weekly collection of earth-closet contents from the built up parts of the Parishes of Wortwell, Alburgh, Harleston, Brockdish, Starston and the Pulhams continued during 1966, with only one minor change in the arrangements. Early in the year, to avoid unnecessary changes in the refuse collection teams, the two men employed on the Cesspool Emptier agreed to undertake all this work with the assistance of one refuse collector for one day. With the number of pails for collection in all parishes gradually decreasing, it is anticipated that this extra help will soon be unnecessary. At the end of the year about 35 man-hours per week were being devoted to this work.

Following the installation of the sewerage scheme for the Pulhams it was hoped that it would have been possible to discontinue this service in those Parishes during 1966 (except for a few 'condemned' dwellings still occupied) but owing to the slow rate at which W.Cs. were being installed, this could not reasonably be done. In many cases the slow rate of conversions was no fault of the owners as local builders were unable to cope with the demand all at once.

The practice of composting pail contents in 'straw pans' on an isolated site at Thorpe Abbots has continued as a satisfactory means of disposing of this material.

That 77% of all dwellings in the District now enjoy the use of a W.C. (as recorded in the 1966 Norfolk Sample Census Report) is a clear indication that any other form of toilet arrangement is beginning to be regarded as an abomination and rightly so, and I am sure that all members of the Council will agree that the day we can abandon this particular service entirely will be a happy one.

(c) Emptying of Septic Tanks etc.

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the Dennis 800 gallon Cesspool Emptier (with driver and mate) during the year - other than the collection of E.C. pail contents referred to above:-

<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>No. of loads collected</u>
Council sewage works & septic tanks .....	237
Council waterworks lime sludge beds .....	434
Private septic tanks .....	532
Septic tanks at schools, school canteens etc. ....	52
	<hr/>
	1255

The number of loads collected is a reduction of 257 from the 1965 figure, accounted for by several factors, the main ones being the reduction of the working week and the increasing difficulty of finding suitable disposal sites for septic tank contents. However, I am pleased to report that having discontinued the septic tank emptying service to premises outside the District, we are able to respond to any call on this service fairly promptly without undue inconvenience to householders. This often means having the vehicle travel from one end of the District to the other to attend to what is nearly always an 'urgent' request, hence the mileage travelled during the year was only slightly down on that of the previous year - 10,189 (as against 10,205 in 1965).



Thanks to the continued co-operation and goodwill of certain farmers in the District, cesspool emptier contents have again been disposed of by spreading over suitable arable land and by the absence of serious complaints I think it fair to assume it is a satisfactory answer to what could be a difficult problem.

#### PART VI - R O D E N T C O N T R O L

A summary of the work carried out by your rat-catcher, Mr. H. J. Bartram, on the control of rats and mice during 1966 is shown in the following table:-

	Council premises (Tips, s/Wks.etc.)	Private dwellings (inc.CHs.)	Agricul- tural premises	Other premises	Total
No. of notifications of infestations received.	2	221	24	27	274
No. of survey visits as a matter of routine.	33	1227	74	44	1378
No. of treatments carried out at infested premises:					
(a) Rats ... (i) major	19	4	13	11	37
(ii) Minor	38	640	22	16	716
(b) Mice ... (i) Major	-	-	-	-	-
(ii) Minor	2	31	-	6	39
No. of dead bodies picked up::					
Rats	838	1555	661	87	3141
Mice	4	58	-	9	71

As was discussed by the Public Health Committee early in 1967, the winter of 1966/7 proved one of the worst for many years so far as rats are concerned, undoubtedly due to the almost ideal breeding and growing conditions brought about by the wet summer and mild weather of the early winter. The number of rat complaints during the year was an increase of 59 over the previous year (about 28%), the number of treatments up by 176 (28%) and the number of dead bodies recovered up by 1,032 (48%). It is interesting to note that, of all the complaints received, over half the number came in during the months of October, November and December.

Due to increased amount of work done in the way of treatments, the rat-catcher was not able to devote quite so much time to routine survey work (the number of actual visits was 335 down on the previous year) but it must not be overlooked that your Inspectors are continually on the look out for signs of rat infestation when any premises are visited for other purposes. In all cases where rats were found as a result of survey or other inspections only informal action was necessary before the treatments were carried out.

All the Council's sewerage systems were again test-baited for the presence of rats and I am pleased to report that all gave negative results.

Observations have also been made when corn stacks etc. are being dismantled for threshing etc. and I am again able to report that in all cases the requirements of the Regulations were complied with.

Additional to his normal duties on rodent control, Mr. Bartram also treated 5 Council sewage works sites for rabbits, 24 private premises for moles, and destroyed 18 wasps nests. Further, during shortage of labour on the cleansing side, he helped out with tip covering with the tractor and acted as mate on the cesspool emptier.

## PART VII - PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT

### (a) Factories Act, 1961.

The number of factories in use in the District at the end of the year, the number of inspections made and action taken as a result thereof, are shown in the following table:-

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4 & 6 are enforced by Local Authorities. (No power used).	6	6	1	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (Power used).	82	93	1	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (Excluding outworkers' premises).	4*	4*	-	-
Totals	92	103	2	-

\*NOTE: These are 4 of the 5 slaughterhouses which are visited and inspected regularly throughout the year.

The number of premises is down by one from the previous year, and the number of inspections also slightly reduced, but is still achieving our object of at least one inspection of each premises per annum.

The two written notices to occupiers were in respect of (a) the provision of sanitary accommodation; and (b) improvement to an existing toilet. The latter was dealt with but (a) still outstanding at the end of the year.

53 inspections were also made regarding the provision of temporary toilet accommodation for workmen on building sites, and apart from several verbal requests to improve that provided, two letters were sent to builders where none had been provided.

In each case the matter was attended to without recourse to statutory action.

36 outworkers were notified in the District during the year, and of those premises inspected none found to be unsatisfactory. All but one of the outworkers are engaged in the making or alteration of wearing apparel - mostly sheepskin gloves. The other works in the open air weaving coco-fibre for matting.



(b) Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

14 more premises were added to the Council's register under this Act during the year and 10 removed, bringing the total number of premises on the register at the end of the year to 75 (embracing 89 separate registrations, as some premises comprise more than one category of registration). These separate registrations are made up as follows and the number of persons employed therein are as indicated:-

<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>Number Registered</u>	<u>Total No. of Employees</u>
Offices .....	21	69
Retail shops .....	56	211
Wholesale shops/warehouses ...	5	8
Catering establishments .....	3	17
Fuel storage depots .....	4	11
	<u>89</u>	<u>316</u>

108 inspections were made, mostly follow-up routine visits, and apart from minor matters dealt with verbally, 7 letters were sent requesting improvements etc. to comply with statutory requirements. All were complied with, without need for further action.

No accidents were reported in premises covered by the Act.

(c) Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.

In the course of the year 20 visits to farms were recorded to inspect for the provision of sanitary facilities for employees, as a result of which three informal letters were sent requiring in two cases toilets to be provided and in the other case an existing toilet to be improved. In each case the matter received prompt attention.

Regular observations were also kept in respect of casual agricultural workers employed on fruit picking etc. and no case came to our notice where satisfactory temporary accommodation was not provided.

During the year I ascertained that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food had an inspector covering our area in respect of the aspects of this Act which they administer, and have come to an informal agreement with him that at any farms he finds that sanitary accommodation is not provided or is unsatisfactory, the matter will be referred to us for action.

PART VIII - OTHER MATTERS

(a) Public Health Nuisances, etc.

202 primary inspections and 143 revisits were made in the investigation of complaints of public health nuisances etc. (About a 50% increase in the number of visits made in 1965). 23 informal letters were sent requesting the abatement of nuisances, and only in one case was it necessary to follow up with a statutory notice, which brought about the abatement of the nuisance. In two cases informal letters also secured the demolition of buildings considered to be in a dangerous condition.

During 1966, two particular cases arose which highlighted the problem of conflicting interests of agriculture and residential development; now that in most parishes fairly tight boundaries have been agreed with the Planning authority for future residential development this problem is met when new dwellings are erected in close proximity to an existing farm, and to be fair to both sides it is difficult to say which interest should give way to the other. But, taking the long term view, it seems that certain agricultural holdings which have existed in some villages for a number of years will, sooner or later, have to move out and give way to residential use - which in view of the potential increased value of the land should not be such a hardship as appears to be at first thought.



(b) Earth Closet Conversion Grants.

As most owners of dwellings now take advantage of one or other of the two types of improvement grants available for proposed improvements which include the provision of internal W.Cs., the number of these grants being applied for is tending to decrease. 20 new applications were received in 1966 as against 44 in 1965, and all approved initially in principle. 30 grants were approved for payment - after completion of the work - to a total value of £555 0. Od., an average of £18 10. Od. each (£2 9. Od. higher than the average grant paid in the previous year).

(c) Miscellaneous Licences etc.

There were no additions to the register under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964 during the year, the same number of 11 still being in operation.

The same four premises were licensed under the Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963, and inspections of the premises indicated that they are conducted and maintained on satisfactory lines, in accordance with the licence conditions. One other application was approved for licensing, but as the necessary improvements had not been carried out the licence could not be issued and the premises not put to this use.

Two additional licences were issued for the storage of petroleum during the year, bringing the total number of licensed premises in the District to 106. No contraventions of licence conditions were encountered in the course of routine inspections.

One extra Game Dealer's licence was issued, bringing the total to 11.

(d) Town Planning and Building Control.

923 applications for approval of plans were received during 1966, of which 589 were affected by the requirements of the Town and Country Planning Act. This is a reduction of 110 on the figure for 1965, and the first time the number had not increased for several years. I regret to say that this did not mean a reduction in the amount of work involved in dealing with these applications, as with the new Building Regulations coming into force in February, considerably more time had to be spent in scrutinising proposals and about twice the number of site inspections became necessary to ensure satisfactory execution of the work.

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In conclusion, may I again express to members of the Council and the Council staff - particularly those in my own Department - my thanks and appreciation for their assistance and support, without which my job would be that much more difficult.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,



Senior Public Health Inspector,  
and Building Surveyor.

May/June 1967.



# DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S

### ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1966

Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year ended 31st December, 1966.

When I wrote my last report the financial restrictions were beginning to show their effect and the number of contracts in hand was declining. The general effect of this was that although we were as busy as ever, and as can be seen in Appendix 4 a wide variety of work was dealt with, the delay in carrying out certain capital works became apparent. However, something over £60,000 was expended by this Department on capital works. Preparations for new schemes continued and it appears that if the work in 1967 continues to flow as it is now capital works expenditure by this Department will be considerably higher.

As mentioned in my last report and also elsewhere here, much time has to be spent in connection with private development and it seems plain that my forecast some years ago about rapid growth in this District will be fulfilled and the amount of work to be done by the Authority as a whole and, indeed, by other Authorities, will steadily increase.

As in earlier years, the Department experienced difficulties in maintaining its strength and, as can be seen in Appendix 1, for much of the year the senior Engineering Assistant's post was vacant and, towards the end of the year, there was a further vacancy for an Engineering Assistant. However, the general output is very good and my thanks are due to both my indoor and outdoor staff. I am grateful, too, to Members of the Council and to members of the other Departments for the help and co-operation received.

## HOUSING

### (A) CAPITAL WORKS

#### (1) House Improvements:

With the removal of the restrictions early in the year both your Consultants and I were able to resume the programme of improving your pre-war houses. Contracts were let for the 43 dwellings on four different sites which remained in my share of the programme but, as Members will know, difficulties were experienced with the Contractor at Denton and I regret to say that because of this I doubt whether I shall completely finish my share before 1967 is out.

#### (2) New Dwellings:

The construction of the 32 dwellings at Martin Road was continued and completed during the year, as was the site works there and a block of 9 garages. The programme for the erection of 40 two-bedroomed bungalows on six sites was pressed forward and when the year ended tenders had been received for all the contracts although no construction work had, in fact, started. A similar programme for 1967 was decided, together with a Grouped Homes Scheme for the Elderly at Harleston and preparatory work was well in hand. Preparations also started during the year for the erection of two houses for staff at Rushall Waterworks.



When the year finished construction work was in progress at Brockdish and Tivetshall St. Margaret for the provision of sites for sale to private individuals and work on a similar site at Pulham St. Mary was about to start. At Ashwellthorpe another site of a similar nature laid out by your Consultant Architects was also in the course of preparation.

The 20 aluminium pre-fabricated dwellings at Mendham Lane, Harleston were demolished and the site cleared. It is on this site that the Grouped Homes for the Elderly will be built.

(B) MAINTENANCE

As will be seen from Appendix 2, the pattern followed very much that of previous years. The standard of maintenance continues at a high level. It will be noticed that once again the number of houses painted fell far short of the optimum figure of 300 though it is hoped that in 1967 rather more will be done to retrieve the situation.

W A T E R   S U P P L Y

(A) CAPITAL WORKS

The construction of the new waterworks at Rushall and the new rising main from Rushall to Burston Tower continued during the year but progress was not sufficiently rapid for completion to be achieved. The link main between the Harleston zone and the Earsham area was completed early in the year and this brought about a satisfactory improvement in pressures in the north eastern parts of the District. The question of replacing the old small steel water tower at Long Stratton with a new and much larger one had still not been resolved when the year ended.

With the rising tide of development a number of small water main extensions were being carried out both by this Department and by the developers concerned and it is plain that if growth continues, this sort of work will continue for some time to come.

(B) MAINTENANCE

The pattern continued very much as before but at a greater pace. On the distribution side, in addition to the ordinary day-to-day work, the development of private housing estates brought about a considerable increase in the amount of new work carried out by direct labour. While we have no adequate resources for full scale main laying, a considerable amount of work has to be done in connecting new subsidiary mains to existing feeders, laying special fittings, carrying out tests, and so on. To deal with this the strength of the team was increased from three to four and I consider that it is likely that further increases will have to be made, though perhaps not in 1967. The distribution team continues to work very well and deal with a large amount and a large variety of work.

At the waterworks a breakdown in the standby diesel alternator early in the year caused a certain amount of difficulty and anxiety. Later the approaching completion of the new waterworks put an increasing load on the maintenance staff who had not only to keep in touch with the intricacy of the new works under construction, but also considerably to assist with the installation and testing of a large proportion of the equipment. In this connection it might be mentioned that both the new borehole pumps were installed by your own staff. The increase in the strength of the maintenance team at the waterworks, although authorised, did not, in fact, take place during the year but preparations were in hand for this when the year ended.

It will be seen from the statistics in Appendix 3 that there was a not inconsiderable increase in the quantity of water supplied during the year and although the dry summer made it necessary to enforce a hosepipe ban, the supply was well kept up.

## S E W E R A G E   A N D   S E W A G E   D I S P O S A L

### (A) CAPITAL WORKS

A total of eight schemes were in the hands of your various Consultants during the year but for one reason or another no start had been made on the construction of any of them by the end of the year. The scheme for Ashwellthorpe, the enlargement of the sewage works at Harleston, and the scheme for Wortwell were ready to start. The schemes for Brockdish, Roydon and Scole were delayed and those for Forncett and Tacolneston and Tasburgh and Hapton were being prepared. The scheme for the enlargement of the Long Stratton works was being prepared in my office and the construction of the small scheme at Denton, which I also prepared, was completed during the year. In addition, short sewer extensions, generally in connection with private development, were either being prepared, constructed, or supervised by my office.

### (B) MAINTENANCE

The work of maintenance continued in the usual way and the increase in the establishment by one to a total of eight did much to offset the effects of an increasing amount of work. The work of ground maintenance was pressed forward vigorously and it is reasonable, I think, to claim that although there is still a very long way to go, the general appearance of our sites was again somewhat improved.

The short course for sewage works attendants which the River Authority organised late in 1965, which was followed up in 1966 with another short session, did much to encourage the four men who went. It is gratifying to note that although it cannot be said that we are always successful, the men strive with great enthusiasm to achieve high quality effluents. Another factor in this, of course, is the provision of good tools and equipment and the standard of these and their adequacy are generally satisfactory.

## O T H E R   M A T T E R S

### (A) CAPITAL WORKS

#### (1) CAR PARK, HARLESTON

The construction of the access roads and sundry site works - deferred in 1965 - were started during the year in connection with site works for the 12 bungalows in Harleston to be built under the 1966 Housing Programme. The work was not completed when the year ended.

#### (2) PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT

Large numbers of private developers were laying out an increasing number of small housing estates during the year and a considerable amount of time was spent giving them technical help and advice in the fields of water supply, foul and storm water sewerage, roadworks and other site works. To this end, and in consultation with the County Surveyor's Department, the County Planning Department and our own Building Surveyor's Department, a general specification was prepared for the guidance of developers. This, it is



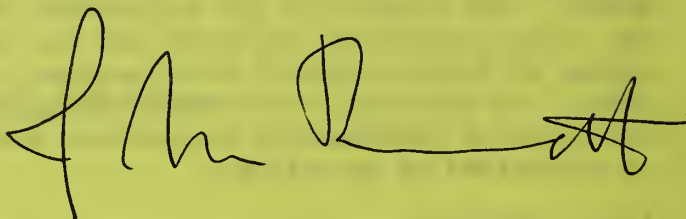
believed, has proved useful and certain it is that the standard achieved by developers is now much better than it was. This sort of work, of course, takes up a considerable amount of time but I feel that it is very necessary and work which must be done by the Department.

(B) MAINTENANCE

Although it had been hoped to have had considerable improvement in the accommodation at the Depot, it has not proved possible to carry out the necessary preparatory work, but it is felt that it will be necessary to do this in 1967.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'F. M. Deane' followed by a stylized flourish.

May, 1967



APPENDIX 1

STAFF CHANGES IN 1966

ARRIVALS - OFFICERS:

7. 3. 66.	MR. G. W. GILDING	TECHNICAL ASSISTANT
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DEPARTURES - OFFICERS:

28. 1. 66.	MR. R. P. HOBART	TECHNICAL ASSISTANT
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29. 7. 66.	MR. A. R. MINNS	SENIOR ENGINEERING ASSISTANT
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31.10. 66.	MR. B. S. PYMER	ENGINEERING ASSISTANT
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ARRIVALS - WORKMEN:

20. 6. 66.	MR. P. L. THEOBALD	HANDYMAN
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27. 6. 66.	MR. J. W. FLATT	PAINTER
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8. 8. 66.	MR. G. MIDDLETON	WATER ATTENDANT
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19. 9. 66.	MR. A. GAZE	WATER ATTENDANT
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26. 9. 66.	MR. S. G. ROSE	WATER ATTENDANT
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DEPARTURES - WORKMEN:

29. 4. 66.	MR. B. WRIGHT	PAINTER
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15. 8. 66.	MR. G. MIDDLETON	WATER ATTENDANT
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APPENDIX 2

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY HOUSING REPAIRS SECTION

IN 1966

No. of dwellings under repair at 31st December, 1966.....	1,516	(1,504)
Complaints received.....	2,512	(2,675)
Jobbing Repairs done.....	2,543	(2,626)
Electrical Complaints received and dealt with.....	233	(272)
* Dwellings painted externally.....	163	(149)
Dwellings partially redecorated internally on change of tenancy.....	8	(9)
Routine inspections of Council Dwellings.....	57	(43)
Vehicle mileages..... NNG 434 .....	1,929	
JNG 378D .....	2,791	
2023 PW .....	7,379	
8342 PW .....	8,400	
726 DNG .....	9,195	
DNG 422C .....	6,686	
CCL 833D .....	4,036	40,416 (37,113)

NOTE: The figures in parentheses are those for 1965

\* In addition to these dwellings painted by direct labour, 8 dwellings were painted by Contractors working on improvement schemes.



### APPENDIX 3

Average daily quantity of water supplied in thousands of gallons per day:-

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
From:												
Rushall	503	509	519	508	531	579	513	508	547	495	500	498
Diss	155	150	158	158	162	166	154	153	154	153	149	159
	<u>658</u>	<u>659</u>	<u>677</u>	<u>666</u>	<u>693</u>	<u>745</u>	<u>667</u>	<u>661</u>	<u>701</u>	<u>648</u>	<u>649</u>	<u>657</u>
	(631)	(624)	(578)	(618)	(635)	(627)	(636)	(640)	(607)	(624)	(631)	(617)
Quantity supplied in 1966 from Rushall.....	187,054,000									(176,155,000)		
" Diss.....	<u>56,919,000</u>									(49,458,000)		
	243,973,000									(225,613,000)		
Increase in 1966.....	18,360,000									(1,661,000)		
										<u>decrease</u>		
Estimated Population in Area of Supply.....	18,050									(17,790)		
Estimated Population supplied in 1966.....	16,900									(16,675)		
Estimated Percentage of Population served..	93.6									(93.5)		
Average Daily consumption per person.....	39.5 g.p.d.									(37.1)		
Length of main in service.....	208 miles									(203)		
Consumers Meters.....	1,244									(1,202)		
Dwellings served.....	6,195									(6,105)		
Direct.....	5,655									(5,520)		
By Standpipe...	540									(585)		
Applications for Supplies granted.....	132									(111)		
New Tappings made.....	219									(174)		
Mains fractures repaired.....	37									(29)		
Service pipes repaired.....	37									(31)		
Valves, hydrants, standpipes, etc. repaired	15									(22)		

NOTE: The figures in parentheses are those for 1965.

# WATER MAINS LAID IN 1966

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Size of Main</u>	<u>Length of Main</u>	<u>Dwellings Supplied</u>	<u>Meters Supplied</u>
DISS - The Heywood, Water Main Extension	3"	309 yds.	3	1
DICKLEBURGH - Rushall-Burston Rising Main	8" 9"	4,776 yds. <u>2,643</u> yds. 7,419 yds.		None
EARSHAM - New Link Main	6"	794 yds.	-	None

## Laid by Private Developers and Taken over by the Council:

LONG STRATTON - Flowerpot Lane - Mickleburgh & Rutland	4"	98 yds.	35	None
EARSHAM - Waveney Crescent Hood's Development	3"	115 yds.	9	None

## FINANCIAL STATISTICS (as at 31st March, 1967)

(i)	Estimated Total Capital Expenditure	£834,500	(£761,100)
(ii)	Estimated Revenue Expenditure (inclusive of running costs, loan charges, etc.)	£67,000	(£53,500)
(iii)	Estimated Revenue	£31,500	(£27,700)



APPENDIX 4

CAPITAL SCHEMES DEALT WITH DURING 1966

1. HOUSING

(A) Improvements

(i) By This Department:

- |     |   |                  |
|-----|---|------------------|
| (a) | Denton - Nr. King's Head, Norwich Road & Trunch Hill (18) | Work in progress |
| (b) | Morningthorpe, Fritton Common (2)                         | Work completed   |
| (c) | Tharston, Chequers Road, Highfields & Picton Road (19)    | Work in progress |
| (d) | Tibenham, Mill Road (4)                                   | Work completed   |
| (e) | Bressingham, Fersfield, Housing Site Sewerage             | Work in progress |

(ii) By Consultants:

- |     |  |                    |
|-----|--|--------------------|
| (a) | Ashwellthorpe, Common Road, Fundenhall (6)                       | Tenders received   |
| (b) | Ashwellthorpe, The Street (18 post-war)                          | Prepared           |
| (c) | " Turnpike, Fundenhall (14)                                      | "                  |
| (d) | Brockdish, Bungay Road (16)                                      | "                  |
| (e) | Bunwell, Low Common (6)  | Completed          |
| (f) | " Turnpike (8)   | Tenders received   |
| (g) | Carleton Rode, 9-20 Flaxlands Road (12) and Post Office Road (4) | Completed          |
| (h) | Dickleburgh, Harleston Road, Rushall (4)                         | "                  |
| (j) | Forncett St. Mary (6)  | "                  |
| (k) | Gissing, Common Road (10)  | "                  |
| (l) | Hempnall, Field Lane, Mill Road & Silver Green (24)              | "                  |
| (m) | Needham, Brook Lane (4)  | "                  |
| (n) | Pulham St. Mary (25)   | Under construction |
| (p) | Pulham Market, Colegate End (8)                                  | Tenders received   |
| (q) | Harleston, Jays Green and School Lane (22)                       | Under construction |
| (r) | Scole, Bungay Road, Norwich Road & Ransome Avenue (30)           | Completed          |
| (s) | Starston, Rushall Road and Skinners Lane (9)                     | "                  |

## 1. HOUSING (Continued)

- |     |  |                    |
|-----|--|--------------------|
| (t) | Tibenham, Long Row (10)                        | Prepared           |
| (u) | Wacton, Church Road (4)                        | Under construction |
| (v) | " Hall Lane (10)                               | Completed          |
| (w) | Winfarthing, Hall Road<br>and Near Chapel (10) | Tenders received   |

### (B) New Dwellings (All by This Department)

- |       |   |                  |
|-------|---|------------------|
| (i)   | Martin Road, Harleston - 12<br>houses, 20 bungalows, 9 garages<br>and siteworks   | Completed        |
| (ii)  | 1966 Programme for 40 two-bedroomed<br>bungalows at - Dickleburgh (2),<br>Burston (4), Earsham (8),<br>Harleston (12), Scole (8) and<br>Wacton (6)                  | Tenders received |
| (iii) | 1967 Programme for 40 two-bedroomed<br>bungalows at - Burston (4), Long<br>Stratton (10), Pulham Market (10),<br>Pulham St. Mary (6), Scole (4),<br>Tacolneston (6) | In preparation   |
| (iv)  | Grouped Homes for the Elderly at<br>Harleston (20 one-bedroomed bungalows)  | In preparation   |

## 2. WATER SUPPLY

### (A) By Consultants

- |       |  |                    |
|-------|--|--------------------|
| (i)   | Rushall Second Waterworks  | Under construction |
| (ii)  | Rushall to Burston Rising Main                                   | " "                |
| (iii) | Alburgh, Denton, Redenhall &<br>North Starston Areas - Link Main | Completed          |
| (iv)  | Long Stratton - New Water Tower                                  | Being prepared     |

### (B) Water Main Extensions by This Department

- |       |                               |                         |
|-------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| (i)   | Aslacton, Sneath Road         | Prepared, but abandoned |
| (ii)  | Diss Heywood                  | Completed               |
| (iii) | Harleston, Green Lane         | Under construction      |
| (iv)  | Long Stratton, Flowerpot Lane | " "                     |
| (v)   | Scole, Reeve Close            | Completed               |

### 3. SEWERAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL

#### (A) By Consultants

(i)	Ashwellthorpe	Tender accepted
(ii)	Brockdish	Awaiting land acquisition
(iii)	Forncett and Tacolneston	Ready for invitation of tenders
(iv)	Harleston - remodelling of sewage disposal works	Work about to start
(v)	Roydon	In preparation
(vi)	Scole - enlargement of sewage disposal works	Awaiting land acquisition
(vii)	Tasburgh and Hapton	In preparation
(viii)	Wortwell	Tenders received

#### (B) By This Department

(i)	Denton	Completed
(ii)	Dickleburgh - sewer extensions in Burston Road and Harvey Lane	Tenders about to be invited
(iii)	Long Stratton - enlargement of sewage disposal works	In preparation
(iv)	Scole, Reeve Close, sewer extension	Completed

### 4. OTHER MATTERS

#### (A) Private Development

Work in connection with housing and site development works was carried out for the following sites:-

(i)	Ashwellthorpe (Lansdale and Falconbridge)
(ii)	" (A. & J Sissen)
(iii)	Aslacton (sundry small sites)
(iv)	Earsham, Waveney Crescent
(v)	Forncett and Tacolneston - Tornest Development
(vi)	Long Stratton - Flowerpot Lane
(vii)	" " Swan Lane
(viii)	" " Hall Lane
(ix)	Pulham Market - Mill Lane (Mickleburgh & Rutland)
(x)	" " " " (H. E. Dade)



#### 4. OTHER MATTERS (Continued)

- (xi) Redenhall with Harleston - Parklands Estate
- (xii) " " " Pound Close
- (xiii) " " " Shotford Road
- (xiv) Roydon, Manor Road
- (xv) Tasburgh, (E. A. Burrell)
- (xvi) " (Reynolds & Halliday)
- (xvii) " Tas Valley Estate

#### (B) HARLESTON CAR PARK & ACCESS ROADS

(including Housing Site works  
at Paddock Road)

Under construction



